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SECURITY INFORMATION

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Lithuanian SSR)

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SUBJECT Conditions in the Dotnuva Rayon: Administration;  
Sovkhozy; Deportations; Partisan Activities;  
Military and Istrebiteli

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Administration

1. Administrative divisions in the Lithuanian SSR are the oblasts (stritis), rayons (rajonas), townships (valsčius), and localities (apylinke). Townships are supervised by township chiefs (virsaitis); localities by elders (seniunas). The locality usually consists of two or three villages. For example, the locality of Bucioniai consists of the villages of Kujenai (55-25N, 24-04E), Norusiai (55-26N, 24-09E), Sventybrastis (55-25N, 24-03E), and Bucioniai (55-26N, 24-04E).
2. Until the beginning of 1951 the elder of the Bucioniai locality was Jonas Rutkunas. During the time of Lithuanian independence Rutkunas was a farmer who owned three hectares of land. Despite this, while he was an elder Rutkunas suppressed the farmers as a real Communist would. This was especially true during the time of collectivization. Early in 1951 Rutkunas was replaced as elder by Urbonas (fnu), whom the farmers described as being a much better person.

Sovkhozy

3. All sovkhosy in the Siauliai Oblast are under the supervision of Sovkhoz No. 1, which is located on the former Sirutiskiai estate (not located). Jankowski (fnu), a Jew, was formerly chairman of all sovkhosy in the Siauliai Oblast. However, sometime in the first half of 1950 Jankowski was imprisoned because he had allegedly wasted government funds.
4. The sovkhos at Suriskiai (55-25N, 24-01E) is referred to as Sovkhoz No. 2 and receives all instructions from Sovkhoz No. 1. The manager of the Suriskiai sovkhos is Juozas Navickas. Juozas Bickus is a brigadier. The

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storekeeper is a Russian Communist named Bikov (fnu). There is also a sovkhos bookkeeper. Antanas Ausvydas is the regular watchman for the sovkhos. He is armed with a rifle and is on duty from dusk until the time when the milk is delivered to the dairy. Other sovkhos officials [ ] were Antanas Bickus and Sutkevicius (fnu), both of whom have rifles. Navickas, the manager, has a hunting rifle.<sup>1</sup> 25X1

5. Including its officials, the Suriskiai sovkhos employs 25 persons. [ ] the kolkhoz consists of 6,000 hectares of land. The sovkhos also has an alcohol distillery employing about 15 regular workers. These workers do not belong to the sovkhos but are employed under a special agreement. 25X1

6. There is a Komsomol group at the Suriskiai sovkhos. [ ] many children are already very pro-Communist. [ ] one girl [ ] voluntarily joined the Komsomol despite her father's wishes. 25X1 25X1 25X1

7. [ ] life on a sovkhos is much better than that on a kolkhoz. During potato harvesting time alone, the sovkhosniki can steal enough potatoes to suffice for a whole year. A milker on a sovkhos receives 21 kopeks for each liter he milks. 25X1

#### Deportations

8. [ ]

The property of deportees is left under the supervision of the township chief. However, after several days it is usually plundered by the istrebiteli.

#### Partisan Activities

9. The partisans were very active in the area of the Dotnuva Rayon in 1949 and 1950. One winter night in 1949, nine heavily-armed partisans visited a farmhouse in Kujenai in an effort to obtain food. At about 10:00 p.m. the farmer heard a knocking at the window, and someone demanded that the door be opened. Since only the militia and partisans knock at windows, the farmer immediately opened the door. Only the barrels of guns could be seen in the darkness. One of the partisans entered the house and searched all the rooms thoroughly. When nothing suspicious was found and when the partisan was convinced that the occupants were reliable, the rest of the partisans entered the house. While the others were eating, two partisans remained on guard outside at the well, which was the best defensive position. Later the two guards came in to eat and their places outside were taken by the farmer [ ] 25X1

The partisans wore white coats, from under which the sound of grenades rattling could be heard. In addition, the partisans had heavy automatics and a light machine gun. These partisans did not appear to be afraid of the istrebiteli, but they sought to avoid them in order not to betray the farmer and not to alarm the garrison. When the partisans were leaving the farmhouse, [ ] and advised that, [ ] questioned by the Soviets regarding this visit, [ ] the visitors were Soviets. 25X1 25X1

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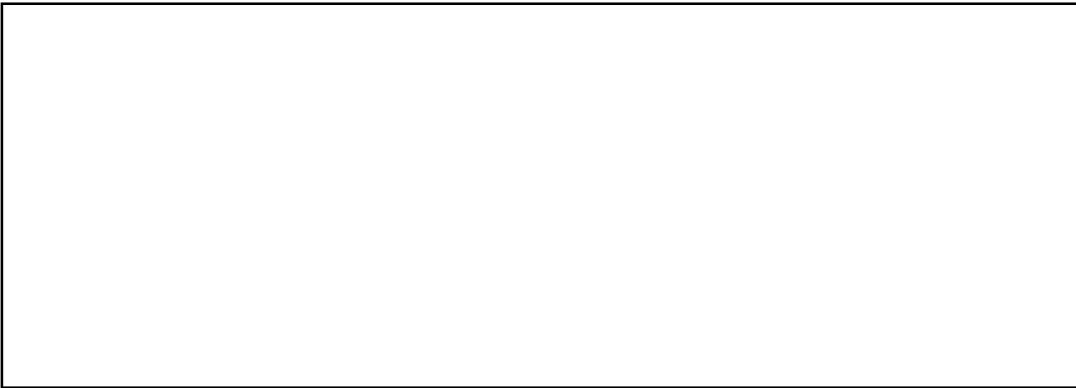
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11. At Christmas 1950 in Uzvalkiai (55-24N, 24-09E) the partisans fought the Soviets and the istrebiteli. The fight occurred when the partisans raided the kolkhoz in Uzvalkiai. A farmer, from whom the partisans took some horses, informed on the partisans, and the militia attacked unexpectedly. Twelve partisans, including one woman, were killed during the fight. Three Soviets were shot. The istrebiteli took the corpses of the partisans to Kedainiai (55-17N, 23-58E) and threw the bodies beside the main road, where they remained for about a week. This was purportedly done to demonstrate to local inhabitants what happens to those who join the partisans. 25X1



15. The partisans keep in contact with each other through local inhabitants. They obtain their weapons from the Soviets. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] if one has enough money, it is even possible to buy weapons from the higher Soviet officials. They say this is possible because most of the Soviets dislike the Soviet regime.

Military and Istrebiteli

16. The militia and istrebiteli in the Dotnuva area number about 90 persons. 25X1  
Their chief is a Lithuanian named Povilaitis (fnu). Povilaitis wears a blue uniform with epaulets and silver edging. His insignia has two stars. [redacted]  
[redacted] Povilaitis answers the phone by saying, "MGB militia -- Povilaitis". The inhabitants try to avoid him. Povilaitis' brother is an istrebitel. 25X1

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17. [redacted]  
[redacted] In fall 1949 an unapprehended assailant drowned an istrebiteli under the ice at Kujenai. Istrebiteli are often transferred from one place to another to prevent their becoming friendly with local inhabitants. Usually it is those who have come from the cities to join the istrebiteli who are transferred. Istrebiteli who come from local farm families usually live with their parents and are allowed to keep rifles in their homes.

18. The istrebiteli wear civilian clothes. They are generally armed with rifles and grenades. Night patrols receive their weapons from the militia clerk who is on night duty in militia headquarters. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] the inhabitants avoid visiting houses on the edges of forests in order not to raise unnecessary suspicion.

19. There are quarters for the militia and istrebiteli in Surviliskis (55-26N, 24-02E). Istrebiteli quarters are in a two-story house behind the Surviliskis school. The house has a red roof and is beside the quarters of the local elder. In early 1951, there were about 500 inhabitants in Surviliskis.

20. A unit of the armed forces is stationed at the Gusaru caserne in Kaunas. Members of the unit wear green caps.

21. Most of the forces in Krekenava belong to the MGB. Forces are stationed in eight one-story houses.

22. There is a large airfield in Kedainiai. A new airfield has been constructed on the Slapaberziu estate.<sup>2</sup> Planes at the field are of the German JU-85 type with twin-engines and rising tails (sic). [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] the twin-engined bombers would be moved to Kaunas and only fighter plane units would remain in Kedainiai.

1. [redacted] Comment: A person must have a permit to own a hunting rifle. Such permits are not issued by the hunting society, which issues only hunting licenses.

2. [redacted] Comment: No previous information available to indicate existence of two airfields at Kedainiai.

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